Sovereign investment fund

*420. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set up a sovereign investment fund with an initial corpus of $5 billion to acquire companies abroad;

(b) if so, whether this fund will also be used for bolstering country's energy security by acquiring coal, mines and oil and blocks abroad;

(c) if so, whether the Prime Minister has already issued directives to the Ministry in this regard; and

(d) if so, by what time Government is likely to announce the decision?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry has, in its meeting held on 18.12.2007, suggested as follows:

> "There is a need to create a Sovereign Fund of US$ 5 bn to begin with for financing of acquisition of companies abroad."

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Levy of passenger fee for new airport terminals

2947. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to levy a 'passenger fee' for new airport terminals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the purpose for which the proposed 'passenger fee' to be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) In addition, as per the provisions of the Aircraft Act, 1934. User Development Fee (UDF) can be levied on passengers at the airports to realise the capital cost recovery gap, if any.

Civil aviation facility in Punjab

2948. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the proposal of State Government of Punjab for setting up of Civil Enclaves at Adampur and Bhatinda Air Force Stations in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government has also received a proposal for developing Sohnewal airstrip near Ludhiana as domestic airport; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The State Government of Punjab has requested for a civil enclave at Bhatinda and offered the required land for it. Recently a joint team of officers of Airports Authority of India (AAI), Indian Air Force (IAF) and State Government inspected the site. However, in case of Adampur, AAI has not received any request for establishment of a Civil Enclave.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from the State Government. The existing runway is to be extended to 8000 feet for which about 300 acres of land is required. AAI has advised the State Government to survey the area and confirm availability of land.

Proposal to lower revenue share in DIAL

2949. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to lower its revenue share in Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL), in view of the objections raised by M/s GMR to the Greater Noida airport; and

(b) if so, how much loss Government would incur on account of this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National code on aircraft

2950. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been taking up the matter with the International Civil Aviation Organization to replace the existing codes in the commercial aircrafts with the national code of the country;

(b) if so, the status of the negotiations;

(c) by when the national code of the country would be inscribed on the aircrafts; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in implementing this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The Representative of India to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has consulted the ICAO for replacing the existing aircraft nationality mark "VT" assigned presently to India. The matter is still under consideration as any change must be representative of our country.

Naming of Raipur Airport

†2951. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chhattisgarh Government and State's public have requested the Raipur airport to be named after Swami Vivekanand;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi